

What is Claimed is:

1.

A shared multi-user e-mail system on a single computer, comprising:

a shared computer;

a multi-user e-mail system configured to run on said shared computer configured to enable a plurality of users, one at a time, to access said multi-user e-mail system running on said shared computer;

a multi-user graphical user interface (GUI) configured to display concurrently current status of multiple email accounts of said plurality of users,

wherein said multi-user GUI permits one user of said plurality of users at a time to access an e-mail user account environment of said one user of said plurality of users on said multi-user e-mail system,

wherein said one user, if authenticated, can access only said e-mail user account environment belonging to said one user,

wherein each of said e-mail user account environments includes an inbox, an outbox, and at least one personal file folder; and

a network interface coupled to said shared computer through which e-mails can be routed to destination addresses not included in said multi-user e-mail system.

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2. The system according to claim 1, wherein said multi-user GUI includes an indication of the priority of e-mail received in said multi-user e-mail system enabling prioritization of access to said shared computer by said users.

3. The system according to claim 2, wherein said indication of priority includes at least one of the following indications of priority:

- an audio;
- a visual;
- a color;
- an iconic;
- a communication to a communication device;
- a page to a pager;
- a numeric;
- an alphabetic;
- a letter;
- a character;
- an alert; and
- a wireless alert.

4. The system according to claim 1, wherein the system is used in at least one of a production, operations, healthcare, retail, hospital, and nursing environments.



A real time multi-user graphical user interface (GUI) comprising:

a status module enabling a computer to indicate current status of multiple email accounts of a plurality of users, concurrently, on a shared multi-user computer.

6. The GUI according to claim 5, wherein said status module comprises:

a priority indicator enabling the computer to indicate priority of access to the shared multi-user computer.

7. The GUI according to claim 6, wherein said priority indicator comprises at least one of:

- a visual indicator;
- an audio indicator;
- a color indicator;
- a numeric indicator;
- a alphabetic indicator;
- an alphanumeric indicator;
- an iconic indicator;
- a communication;
- a communication device;
- an alert;
- a wireless alert; and

a page.

8. The GUI according to claim 5, wherein said status module comprises:

a new mail indicator enabling the computer to indicate that a new mail has arrived for one of said plurality of users of said shared multi-user computer.

9.

An electronic mail system comprising:

a user-assignable personal file folder.

10. The system according to claim 9, wherein emails sent from at least one of a sender and a recipient automatically stored in one or more of said user-assignable personal file folders.

11. The system according to claim 10, wherein said user assignable file folders are automatically tagged by the email address of a sender of a received email and a receiver of a sent email.

12. The system according to claim 9, wherein each of said user-assignable personal file folders comprises:

a dynamic, active read receipt report stored on a system of a sender of an email.

13. The system according to claim 12, wherein said dynamic, active read receipt report comprises:

a single file indicating read receipt status indicating which of a plurality of recipients of an email have and have not accessed said email.

14. The system according to claim 13, further comprising tracking a date and time of access by one of said plurality of recipients.

15. An electronic mail method for allowing emails to be encrypted or digitally signed, the method comprising:

- (a) embedding a public key in an email message; and
- (b) sending said email message from a first user to a second user.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein said public key embedded in said step (a) includes performing embedding including at least one of:

- automatically embedding,
- embedding by sending user interaction, and
- prompting.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein a sender can encrypt said email using a private key and said recipient can decrypt said email using said embedded public key.

18. The method according to claim 16, wherein a receiver can use said embedded public key to decrypt said email.

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